ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Policy does not permit import of consumer and luxury electronic items as per the General Import Trade Control Policy.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what general policy he is talking about in terms of what is contained in the Red Book. The thrust of the Press report was that the imports are on Government account, on behalf of the Department of Electronics. Is it a fact? If so, how are you going to protect the indigenous industry?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: It is not a fact. ET & T has not placed any order for VCRs so far, nor has the Department of Electronics given any permission for importing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Defalcation of lakhs of dollars by the employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore

*227. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore had defalcated several lakhs of dollars;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Defalcation of Government funds amounting to Singapore Dollars 1,42,231.91 (equivalent to Rs. 6,05,390.55) had taken place in the High Commission of India, Singapore, upto May, 1985, when a locally recruited employee of Singhpore nationality, Smt. P. Kannan, was working as Cashier in the Mission.

(c) The services of Smt. Kannan were terminated on 29-5-85. She has been absconding since that time. Steps to trace her were made by the authorities concerned both in Singapore and in India, but these were not successful. The investigating authorities have since advised that it is not possible to pursue the case in the absenence of the main accused. Consequently, it has not been possible to initiate steps to recover the defalcated amount.

Review of Anti-Poverty programmes

*231. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-poverty programmes under implementation have been reviewed recently and whether their impact on the economically weaker sections has been studied;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the drawbacks in the implementation of the anti-poverty programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The three major anti-poverty programmes under implementation are : Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). No All-India studies on RLEGP have been completed as yet. A number of evaluation studies have been, however, completed in respect of IRDP and NREP during the last 3-4 years. In the case of IRDP, concurrent evaluation